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জীবনের জন্য, জীবন যাপনের জন্য

এসআইবিএল ইসলামিক কনজুমার ফাইন্যান্স  
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# star BUSINESS

DHAKA SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2015

## Financing is the main challenge in achieving SDGs

Analysts say at dialogue on implementation of sustainable development agenda by 2030

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Financing will be a major challenge for Bangladesh to attain the Sustainable Development Goals, the new development targets set by the United Nations, the Centre for Policy Dialogue said yesterday.

To achieve the 17 SDGs by 2030, it is necessary to double domestic resources, as Bangladesh's tax-gross domestic product ratio is lower than Nepal's at present, said CPD Distinguished Fellow Debapriya Bhattacharya.

The tax-GDP ratio needs to be raised to 18 percent from the present 12.1 percent over the next five to 10 years, he said.

"Plugging in illicit financial flow will be a major challenge for us in that way," he said, citing that the illegal outflow is 1.2 percent of the country's GDP.

Bhattacharya's comments came at a dialogue on the implementation challenges of the sustainable development agenda by 2030, organised by the CPD, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and South Voice on post-MDG International Development Goals, at the Brac Centre Inn.

The 17 SDGs with 169 associated targets were adopted in September this year. The SDGs replaced the Millennium Development Goals that will expire at the end of the year.

The CPD identified five major challenges linked to the attainment of SDGs, including integrating SDGs into the national planning process, developing institutional mechanism and ensuring



From left, Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD); Robert Watkins, UN resident coordinator in Bangladesh; AHM Mustafa Kamal, planning minister; Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Brac founder and chairperson; Md Shahidul Haque, foreign secretary; and Mustafizur Rahman, executive director of CPD, attend a dialogue on the sustainable development goals, at Brac Centre Inn in the capital yesterday.

accountability.

Bangladesh also needs to increase its efficiency in utilising the concessional foreign funds, boost private and foreign investment as well as consolidate the present remittance inflows.

Bangladesh has to increase its utilisation of foreign aid from the present 1.6 percent to beyond 2 percent, Bhattacharya said.

The country is not spending enough on social security, he said, adding that it is lower than the target set under the sixth

five-year plan.

The CPD said the average share of healthcare in total public expenditure stagnated at 0.7 percent of GDP during 2003-2014, which is much lower than the World Health Organisation's recommended 5 percent of GDP.

Similarly, budgetary allocation on education remains at 2 percent of GDP while Unesco recommended 6 percent. "So, we are much lower than the global standard in terms of health, education and social security."

Of the 17 SDGs, eight are better integrated into the existing national prioritisation processes and the rest, which include health, inclusive growth, employment and governance, are weakly integrated.

The CPD also said it would form a Citizen's Platform involving similar organisations in order to ensure accountability and legitimacy for achieving the SDGs.

## BANGLADESH'S SLIDE IN WB RANKINGS Stalled reforms pull back business: DCCI

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Quick regulatory reforms and execution of big projects hold the key to improving the image of Bangladesh after the country's dropped two spots in the World Bank Doing Business 2016 ranking, the president of a leading chamber said yesterday.

Obtaining electricity connections in the industrial units has become tougher and in some cases, it is impossible, said Hossain Khaled, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Land registration in Bangladesh is one of the most cumbersome, most complex and time consuming issue, he said at a press meet on the latest WB report on 'Doing Business 2016' at the chamber building in Dhaka.

"The WB report is alarming for us and Bangladesh. The Board of Investment should play a pro-active role as this body is important for business and investment."

The BoI should revive its one-stop service so that both domestic and foreign investors can get all the services from one building to save time and money, he said.

Although almost all leading financial institutions, like Goldman Sachs, have said that the future of Bangladesh is bright as the country is moving ahead despite domestic oddities and external shocks, the country's rank was lowered due to slow progress in regulatory reforms and implementation.

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## Correction

In a report published on B1 on October 30, it was wrongly stated that Japan has proposed to charge up to 7 percent on its loans because of Bangladesh's recent graduation to the lower middle-income status. The Embassy of Japan in Dhaka said that actually, it will be 0.7 percent. It was also erroneously mentioned that Japan now takes 0.1 percent as service charge. The actual rate is 0.01 percent. We apologise for the mistakes.

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## WB to give \$100m to boost technical education system

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The World Bank yesterday approved an additional \$100 million fund to scale up its support to strengthen technical and vocational education in Bangladesh.

The financing will enable two lakh poor students to complete vocational training and diploma courses, the WB said in a statement.

With this additional financing to the ongoing Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP), the WB's total support to the programme stands at \$179 million, with co-financing of \$16.7 million in grants from Canada.

The project offers vocational training opportunities that respond to market demand to the poor.

To date, more than 1.1 lakh diploma students from low-income households have received stipends in 93 polytechnic institutions.

In addition, nearly 70,000 short-course trainees received free six-month vocational training in 38 trades.

Within six months of completing the courses, 42 percent of the trainees were employed.

Bangladesh needs to create more and better jobs for the 13 lakh youths entering the labour force every year to accelerate economic growth, WB Country Director Johannes Zutt said in the statement.

The additional financing will continue to improve the quality of skills training and employability of youth in local and overseas job markets, he added.

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## PepsiCo, Transcom launch 250ml can



From right, Darpan Vashishta, country manager of PepsiCo; Khurshid Irfan Chowdhury, executive director of Transcom Beverages; and Arif Hossain, marketing manager, unveil the new 250ml can of Pepsi, 7Up, Mirinda, Mountain Dew and Pepsi Diet, at Picasso Restaurant in Dhaka yesterday. Transcom Beverages is the local franchisee of PepsiCo.

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PepsiCo and Transcom Beverages Ltd yesterday introduced beverages in 250ml cans to attract the young generation. The cans priced at Tk 35 each will be available in Pepsi, 7up, Mirinda, Mountain Dew and Pepsi Diet.

Pepsi has always served as the identity of the youth, said Darpan Vashishta, country manager of PepsiCo, at the launch of the slim can at Picasso Restaurant in Dhaka.

The introduction of the can

with 'My Can, My Style' as the theme appropriately represents the individuality of the youth and gives the youth a medium to express themselves in their own way, he said.

"I am extremely excited about the launch of the slim can with the theme, as I personally believe in the power of self-expression and positive attitude," Vashishta added.

"It's a cool new pack," said Khurshid Irfan Chowdhury, executive director of Transcom Beverages.

"I am glad to be a part of yet another milestone of Pepsi, this

time with the launch of the iconic 250ml slim can. We are extremely excited about this."

Chowdhury believes the pack will rewrite the rules for the category and strengthen the company's position as the leader in the country's beverage industry.

Cans have always been a style statement with the youth, and this slim can glorifies the experience of drinking PepsiCo products in a whole new way, PepsiCo said in a statement.

The company also chose two national cricket team players,

Soumya Sarkar and Taskin Ahmed, as the brand ambassadors to promote the drinks.

Transcom Beverages is the sole franchisee of PepsiCo International for bottling, distributing and marketing of Pepsi, 7up, Mirinda, Mountain Dew, Slice, Pepsi Diet, 7up light and Aquafina in Bangladesh.

7up has been awarded as the best beverage brand in the last five years by Bangladesh Brand Forum while Transcom Beverages won the PepsiCo International Bottler of the Year award in 2009.

## Procurement conference begins today

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A three-day regional conference on innovation in sustainable procurement, hosted by the government's Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU), begins in Dhaka today.

The third gathering of its kind, it is geared to increase knowledge and networking of the heads of public procurement departments of eight South Asian countries. The second conference was held in Islamabad in 2014 and the first in Nepal in 2011.

Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal is expected to inaugurate the event -- Third South Asia Regional Public Procurement Conference -- at Westin Dhaka. The CPTU is under the planning ministry's implementation monitoring and evaluation division.

The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank are co-sponsoring the event, CPTU said in a statement yesterday.

MA Mannan, state minister for finance and planning, and the WB and ADB country directors will also attend the inaugural session, while Finance Minister AMA Muhith will wrap up the conference on Tuesday.

The main objective of the conference is to provide a platform for the public procurement practitioners and stakeholders to share knowledge and experiences to continuously enhance performance.

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## Freight cost on Ctg-Pangaon river route goes up 47pc

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

The cost of transporting containers on the river route from Chittagong port to Pangaon Inland Container Terminal has gone up 47 percent, frustrating exporters and importers.

In a notice on October 26, the shipping ministry reset the tariff at \$220, up from \$150, to transport a 20-foot loaded container on the river route.

The tariff has been re-fixed at \$110, up from \$75, to transport a 20-foot empty container. For a 40-foot loaded container, the rate is \$440, up from \$300, while it is \$220, up from \$150 for a 40-foot empty container.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority built the inland terminal jointly at a cost of Tk 154 crore to transport export-import containers at low costs and less time and to ease the pressure of cargo movement on the Dhaka-Chittagong railway and highway corridors.

The shipping ministry gave licences to 32 private firms to purchase vessels for the route, but no firm has yet purchased any vessel.

CPA purchased three container vessels from China and started transporting containers on the route in December 2013.

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